



Bruce Rauner, Governor
Jeff Mays, Director

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Thursday, March 17, 2016

Anjali Julka
Phone: 312.793.9635

Tom Austin
Phone: 815.395.6680

Unemployment Rates Increase in Most Metro Areas

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	January 2016	January 2015	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	6.5%	5.3%	1.2
Carbondale-Marion	7.7%	6.5%	1.2
Champaign-Urbana	6.7%	5.7%	1.0
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	6.6%	6.9%	-0.3
Danville	9.1%	7.7%	1.4
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	7.1%	6.5%	0.6
Decatur	8.7%	7.8%	0.9
Elgin	7.5%	6.7%	0.8
Kankakee	8.7%	7.9%	0.8
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	7.0%	6.4%	0.6
Peoria	8.6%	7.2%	1.4
Rockford	8.5%	7.7%	0.8
Springfield	6.6%	5.9%	0.7
St. Louis (IL-Section)	7.4%	6.8%	0.6
Illinois Statewide	7.1%	6.8%	0.3

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO—Unemployment rates increased in a majority of the metro areas – as did the number of people entering the workforce – indicating many individuals did not find employment, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).

“Though more people in Illinois entered the labor force, they were not able to find jobs,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “With Illinois trailing the rest of the country in job creation, we need structural reforms to get more people back to work.”

The unemployment rate increased in 13 metro areas and declined in one. Illinois businesses added jobs in nine metros, in which the largest increases were seen in: Rockford (+2.5 percent, +3,700), Lake-Kenosha (+2.1 percent, +8,200), and Carbondale-Marion (+1.8, +1,000). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.5 percent or +53,100). Illinois businesses lost jobs in four metro areas including Bloomington (-1.2 percent, -1,100), Danville (-1.0 percent, -300), and the Quad Cities (-0.9 percent, -1,700). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros

were: Retail (13 of 14), Mining and Construction (10 of 14), Education and Health Services (10 of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (nine of 14), Government (nine of 14), Professional and Business Services (eight of 14) and Other Services (eight of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares January 2016 with January 2015. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 7.1 percent in January 2016 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in January and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – January 2016

Metropolitan Area	January 2016	January 2015**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	92,500	93,600	-1,100
Carbondale-Marion MSA	56,000	55,000	1,000
Champaign-Urbana MSA	106,500	105,400	1,100
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,601,100	3,548,000	53,100
Danville MSA	28,900	29,200	-300
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	178,200	179,900	-1,700
Decatur MSA	50,000	50,000	0
Elgin Metro Division	247,500	244,100	3,400
Kankakee MSA	43,800	43,100	700
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	396,600	388,400	8,200
Peoria MSA	174,300	174,900	-600
Rockford MSA	150,900	147,200	3,700
Springfield MSA	111,000	110,000	1,000
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	232,100	228,200	3,900
Illinois Statewide	5,851,000	5,790,000	61,000

**Revised

-(continued) -

174**16



**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

	Jan- 16	Jan- 15	Over the Year Change
Rockford MSA			
Boone County	8.9%	7.9%	1.0
Winnebago County	8.4%	7.7%	0.7
Cities			
Belvidere City	11.3%	10.0%	1.3
Freeport City	7.2%	7.5%	-0.3
Rockford City	8.4%	7.1%	1.3
Counties			
Bureau County	8.9%	7.9%	1.0
Carroll County	8.0%	6.8%	1.2
DeKalb County	7.1%	6.3%	0.8
Henry County	8.3%	7.1%	1.2
JoDaviess County	8.3%	6.9%	1.4
Kane County	7.6%	6.8%	0.8
Lee County	7.0%	6.4%	0.6
McHenry County	6.3%	6.6%	-0.3
Ogle County	8.6%	7.6%	1.0
Stephenson County	7.9%	7.8%	0.1
Whiteside County	7.7%	7.0%	0.7

Stephenson County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.9 percent in January 2016 from 7.8 percent in January 2015. For the month of January 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,700.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +225 compared to a year ago. Construction (+250) and Professional-Business Services (+75) added the most jobs from January 2015. Manufacturing (-100) and Financial Activities (-75) sectors recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.

Note:

- Monthly 2015 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2016, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

###

Rockford MSA Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 4,900 positions in January and approximately 87 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 8.5 percent in January 2016 from 7.7 percent in January 2015 as the number of people employed and unemployed in the labor force increased from a year ago. For the month of January, the estimated number of people unemployed in the labor force was 14,600.

Total nonfarm employment increased +3,700 compared to January 2015. Professional-Business Services (+1,900), Retail Trade (+800), Educational-Health Services (+500), and Leisure-Hospitality (+400) sectors led other local industries in payroll gains. Construction (-200), Wholesale Trade (-100), and Information (-100) industries recorded declines compared to one year ago.

Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 8.6 percent in January 2016 from 6.8 percent in January 2015. For the month of January 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 2,250.

Total nonfarm employment increased (+350) compared to January 2015. Leisure-Hospitality (+100), Construction (+75), and Educational-Health Services (+75) sectors added the most jobs over the year. The Professional-Business Services (-50) sector recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.